

10:35-45  
isa-53

Once upon a time, men and woman were called to serve their country. They were invited to sacrifice, to give of their time, their safety, even their life in the cause of freedom. Somewhere that changed. Now we hear the invitation: Be all that you can be, find your future, in the army. The people who are in the business of finding men and women to staff an all volunteer army find self interest a more effective appeal than patriotism.

Self interest, self preservation, it is not just the young who have changed. All the ads, appealing to every age have targeted the me that is in each of us. So we ask, not what is good, but what is good for me. We ask, not how our country or even all peoples in the world might get ahead, but show I might climb above my neighbors. We all want more for me, better for me, best for me.

But before we shake our heads and wring our hands of this miserable age in which we live, we need to look at today's gospel lesson.

James and John, <sup>who</sup> brothers, along with Peter ~~and Andrew and James~~ were part of Jesus inner circle, James And John, aksd Jesus, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you," Jesus answered, "What do you want me to do for you?" Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and the other at your left ~~in~~ your glory.

They were not along just for a ride. They had ~~an~~ some idead just where heavenly Jesus was going to ~~as~~ end up: in glory. So they asked for the best seats in the house.

~~aren't they?~~ Sometimes I dream like that myself. Maybe you too. One day before all the world and every one God will turn and say, Lynn, well done. Why your were the best. Yep, me, at the very center me.

Well, Jesus said, if you want to go for glory here is the path. You can follow me by drinking a cup of bitter suffering, by being baptized in an undeserved death. That is the only read that leads to glory.

<sup>It is</sup> ~~and it is~~ kind of like winning the congressional medal of honor. Not many

soldiers join the army with that goal in mind. Most always the price of that glory is a life lost in battle. The same price James and John agreed to pay.

Jesus said to them, The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit ~~at~~ at my right hand ~~and~~ or at my left is not mine to grant but it is for those ~~as~~ for whom it has been prepared.

Now when the other disciples heard this they were indignant. Each of ~~x~~ them wanted the highest ~~galy~~ glory, a place of honor and respect above all others.

Like brothers and sisters fighting to get the seat on Mom's lap, that is how these twelve whom Jesus had chosen were reacting. Selfishness, pride, the desire for a place of honor higher than our neighbors, these are not something new. But for those disciples and all who would seek to please the Lord, this Jesus taught: You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles Lord it over them and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Our road to glory will not be a different road from our Lord's. As he gave his own life that the undeserving might taste and feast on eternal life, so we are called to be servants, slaves of all.

Now that message does not help us get ~~recruits~~ recruits. Were the army to show soldiers being wounded, along with the words, come, give your life for your country, I doubt that their recruiting would be very successful.

And in the church to declare that we are called not to peace and wealth and security, but to following our Lord is not a very popular message. Repeatedly I find myself wanting not to ask too much of you. Give what you can ~~as~~ comfortably do without, Believe in Jesus but don't interfere with your own health as you try to serve him. Be all that you can be, find your future



at Christ Lutheran.

*Do not think of yourself as a slave.*

Servant, slave. For our Lord, became just that for us, our servant, our slave.

Isaiah says it this way, All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

And now we are called to follow.

Paul said it this way: <sup>Phil 2</sup> Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, ~~the~~ taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men, etc.

Have this mind among yourselves. the mind of the Son of God who desiring all honor and glory takes a lowly place in this world. He who deserves that everyone serve him, became our slave.

Who sits before me today, the children of God. The almighty God has said that you are his sons and daughters. There is no higher status that any could be granted in heaven or on earth that the status God had granted you. Now empty yourselves, became slaves to every lowly one, slave to those who have no right to ask anything of you. Slaves, that is your calling.

Luther said something like this: The Christian is an exalted Lord, master of all, the Christian is the lowly servant, slave of every one. That is who you are, who I am. Followers of him who though he was Lord of all, became slave of every one. Amen.